

CLAIMS

- 1 1. *(Presently amended)* A software program- update
2 management system comprising:
3 an input for receiving a request for an update chronology for a
4 target program update;
5 an interface for retrieving succession data from a set of
6 databases, said databases having a record ~~for~~ corresponding to each
7 update, each record indicating all updates that the ~~associated~~
8 update it corresponds to directly supercedes; and
9 an update chronology generator for generating an update
10 chronology for said target update by accessing the records for said
11 target update and each update indicated by the record for said
12 target update as being directly superceded by said target update,
13 said generator being coupled to said input and to said interface.
- 1 2. *(Presently amended)* ~~An~~ A program update management
2 system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said update chronology
3 generator further accesses records ~~for~~ corresponding to each
4 update succeeding said target update, said update chronology
5 further indicating all updates succeeding said target update directly
6 or indirectly, the database record ~~for~~ corresponding to each update
7 indicating any updates directly superceding the ~~respective~~ update to
8 which it corresponds.
- 1 3. *(Presently amended)* ~~An~~ A program update management
2 system as recited in Claims 1 wherein said update chronology is an
3 update family tree.

1 4. *(Presently amended)* ~~An~~ A program update management
2 system as recited in Claims 1 wherein each record indicates an
3 introduction date for the ~~respective~~ update to which it corresponds,
4 said update chronology being a succession of update states.

1 5. *(Presently amended)* ~~An~~ A program update management
2 system as recited in Claim 1 ~~through A4~~ further comprising said
3 update database.

1 6. *(Presently amended)* A method of generating ~~an~~ a program
2 update history, said method comprising:

3 a) receiving a request for an update chronology for a target
4 program update;

5 b) accessing a record ~~for~~ corresponding to said target update in a
6 database, said record indicating updates directly superceded by said
7 target update;

8 c) accessing records ~~for~~ respectively corresponding to said
9 updates directly superceded by said target update to determine
10 updates indirectly superceded by said target update; and

11 d) generating an update chronology from said records, said
12 update chronology indicating updates directly and indirectly
13 superceded by said target update.

1 7. *(Presently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 6 wherein
2 ~~said records identify~~ each record identifies an update, if any,
3 superceding the ~~respective~~ update to which it corresponds, step c)
4 further involving accessing the record of any update indicated as
5 directly succeeding said target update, said update chronology
6 indicating updates directly and indirectly superceding said target
7 update.

1 8. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claims 6 wherein said
2 update chronology is an update family tree.

1 9. *(Presently amended)* A method as recited in Claims 6 wherein
2 each update record indicates an introduction date for the ~~respective~~
3 update to which it corresponds, said update chronology is a
4 succession of update states.

1 10. *(New)* A method of generating a program update history,
2 said method comprising:

3 a) receiving a request for an update chronology for a target
4 program update;

5 b) accessing a record corresponding to said target update in a
6 database, said record indicating all updates directly superceded by
7 said target update;

8 c) accessing records respectively corresponding to said updates
9 directly superceded by said target update to determine updates
10 indirectly superceded by said target update; and

11 d) generating an update chronology from said records, said
12 update chronology indicating updates directly and indirectly
13 superceded by said target update.